
St. Magdalen de Pazzi

Roman Catholic Church



A Guide to Stewardship

The Roman Catholic Church of Saint Magdalen de Pazzi exists to echo Jesus' call to all:
"Come and Follow me."

How can I repay the Lord for all the good done for me? *Psalm 116:12*

Dear Parish Family,

Each of us has been abundantly blessed by God the Father with our own unique gifts and talents. When we prayerfully identify our God-given gifts, and then strive to cultivate and share them with others, we glorify the Lord by our lives and become a glowing witness for Christ in the world.

"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." *Matthew 5:14-16*

Just as God the Father pours himself out for the Son and the Son back to the Father, each of us, created in God's image, has a deep inner desire to share what we have with others. It's how we're made!

There are many active groups, programs, and ministries here at St. Magdalen's that offer you the opportunity to share your time, talent and treasure in the service of others. This is the stewardship way of life and a concrete way to answer Jesus' call to "Come and follow me." As you read through this guide, I invite and encourage you ask the Lord to open your heart to his call.

Maybe you're blessed with a beautiful singing voice and the choir could benefit from your prayerful contribution. Perhaps you have a gift for teaching and want to be a catechist or you have a charism for serving the poor and want to devote time at Our Lady of Hope House. Maybe you have a gift for organization and want to join one of our commissions or committees. Each one of us, rich or poor, young or old, has been given at least one gift that we can use to serve others. We need to recognize our abilities, cherish them, and share them with one another in Jesus' name.

Be assured that whatever commitment you make in gratitude to our loving Father will be received with joy. By offering your time, talent and treasure, you are doing more than simply being generous to others. You are uniting yourself with Christ and making a beautiful offering to God.

May the Peace of Christ be with you always!

Father Tim

St. Magdalen de Pazzi . 908-782-2922 . www.stmagdalen.org

All Christian Disciples Are Called to Stewardship

What is a Disciple?

One who embraces and assists in spreading the teaching of another.

Who is a Christian Disciple?

Through our baptism, we are all Christian disciples invited to answer Jesus' call to "Come and follow me."

Our Call to Self-giving

In loving obedience to his Father's will, Christ offered his whole self for our salvation. As Christian disciples, we are called to conform ourselves to Christ and to make this same selfgift in thanksgiving and love for God our Father.

What is Stewardship?

All we *are* and everything we *have* is a gift from God. Stewardship is the proper care and use of all the gifts we have been given. Like the "good and faithful servant" highlighted in Jesus' parable, (Mt. 25:14-30), we are encouraged to thankfully recognize the gifts God has given us, to develop and multiply them, and offer them back to the Lord!

Stewardship is an integral part of the Christian life, based on four interlocking parts:

God

Our Lord gives us everything we have, beginning with the gift of our very lives.

Gratitude

Our natural response to God's generosity is thanksgiving for His many gifts & blessings.

Accountability

God calls us to be responsible for our gifts, cultivating them throughout our lives.

Return

Jesus teaches us that our gifts are not to be buried and hidden, but invested and returned to our Father "with increase."

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What are God's Gifts?

Time: One of the most precious possessions we have is time. "A true understanding of stewardship begins with taking care of and sharing the gift of time... none of us 'owns' time." When we begin to recognize that all time belongs to God, our hearts can be drawn to devote every moment to knowing and doing his will.

Talent: Ultimately all of our God-given abilities are meant to glorify and draw others into relationship with him. Talents can come in endless forms: spiritual gifts like faith, hope, love and patience; talents of body and mind like singing, public speaking, teaching, coaching, being a good listener, organizing, computer skills, baking, and sewing. When we joyfully use our talents to bring the love of Jesus to others, the Christian way of life takes on a luminous, attractive quality.

Treasure: Money and all that we possess are gifts from God. The more we grow in awareness of our great dependence on God, the more inclined we become to share our treasure with others in the name of the Lord.

Many Gifts, One Body

As members of the Mystical Body of Christ, every one of our unique gifts is important and needed. As good stewards we must first seek to discover the gifts we've been given and embrace them with gratitude. We are then called to develop our gifts and give them back to God through serving of others, spreading the faith and enriching the life of the Church.

Stewardship is at the Heart of Evangelization

When we demonstrate good stewardship of the many gifts God has given and joyfully pour our whole selves into everything we do, we bring the Good News of Jesus into every human situation, converting hearts and transforming society with the divine power of the Gospel.

Stewardship Rooted in Scripture

"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" *Matthew 22: 37*

"... Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." *Romans 12:2*

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." *Matthew 5:14-16*

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." *1 Peter 4:10*

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." *Acts 20:35*

"Give and gifts will be given to you..." *Luke 6:38*

A Christian Steward is a person who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them, shares them with others, and returns them joyfully with an increase to the Lord.

Stewardship Opportunities at St. Magdalen's by Commission *

Sacred Music & Liturgy

- **Altar Servers** - provide invaluable assistance to the priest at Mass and set for the community a prayerful example of genuine participation in the liturgy. Altar service fosters in the server a closer relationship with God which stays with them for the rest of their lives. For more information, please contact Megan Luu at 908-751-1750 or mluu@stmagdalen.org.
- **Adornment of the Sanctuary** – volunteers attend to the daily changes in festive enhancement of the church (altar cloths, candles, flowers), to reflect what the church calls “progressive solemnity.” This helps parishioners become conscious of the level of importance of each liturgical feast and season. For more information, please contact Jennifer Prickel at 908-751-1781 or jprickel@stmagdalen.org.
- **Clares** - are a group of generous individuals who take care of our baptismal garments, making sure they are ready for this sacred first sacrament of the church. For more information, please contact Sr. Barbara at 908-751-1727 or srbarbara@stmagdalen.org.
- **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** - provide invaluable assistance to the priest in distributing Holy Communion at Mass. Extraordinary Ministers also bring Holy Communion to the home bound and those in medical and nursing home facilities. For more information, please contact Steve Carroll at 1-908-782-9904 or stmagem@comcast.net.
- **Lectors** - make present through their prayerful and reverential proclamation, the word of God in our liturgical celebrations. Through their presence, physical bearing, and rhetorical skill, the lector can be a powerful sacramental instrument of God himself speaking to his people. For more information, please contact Dolores Wright at 1-908-782-1359 or doloreswright2@gmail.com.
- **Liturgical Mass Prep Team** - Devoted Teams of women who set up for the Holy Mass every day. For more information, please contact Sr. Barbara at 908-751-1727 or srbarbara@stmagdalen.org
- **Lydias** - are a group of dedicated individuals who keep the church, chapel, and narthex in good order by maintaining candles and other sacred objects needed for the liturgy. For more information, please contact Fran Holmok at 1-908-442-4056 or holmok@comcast.net.
- **Marthas** - are a group of generous parishioners who lovingly clean and maintain all of the linens used for the celebration of the Mass, including altar cloths, vestments, and altar server albs. For more information, please contact Sr. Barbara at 908-751-1727 or srbarbara@stmagdalen.org.
- **Music Ministries** - add profound beauty to our celebration of liturgy by reminding us of the eternal music of heaven. The adult, children's and youth choirs, schola cantorum, contemporary ensemble, cantors and instrumentalists, help the community enter into full, conscious, and active participation in Mass. For more information, please contact the Director of Sacred Liturgy and Worship, Cheryl Manfredonia, at 908-751-1759 or cmanfredonia@stmagdalen.org.

- **Sacristans** - (high school boys and several adult men) dedicate time and attention on weekdays, Sundays, and the special feasts of the year to prepare the church for the reverent, seamless celebration of Mass, enabling the priest celebrant to prepare spiritually for the liturgy. Altar servers who demonstrate notable reverence in Mass are commonly selected as sacristans. For more information, please contact Megan Luu at 908-751-1750 or mluu@stmagdalen.org.
- **Seasonal Adornment of the Sanctuary** – volunteers attend to the major church enhancements that take place during the most solemn seasons of Advent and Lent, and at the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter. For more information, please contact Jennifer Prickel at 908-751-1781 or jprickel@stmagdalen.org.
- **Ushers** - serve to facilitate a welcoming and orderly environment at Mass. They greet and seat people as they arrive, manage the collection, coordinate the presentation of the gifts, and distribute the parish bulletin. For more information, please contact Frank Seboria at 908-303-6017 or fseboria@hotmail.com.

Evangelization & Catechesis of Adults

- **Adult Confirmation Program** – leaders support and help facilitate a six-session review of the teachings of the Catholic Church to prepare adults, who are already baptized and have received the Eucharist, to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. For more information, please contact Dolores Wright at 908-782-1359 or doloreswright2@gmail.com.
- **Bible Study** - this ministry helps members to integrate lessons of the Bible with liturgical seasons and in living the Catholic Faith. The goal of the program is to form strong Catholic disciples through regular in-depth study of Scripture, aimed at personal transformation as well as becoming equipped to share the Faith with others. For more information, please contact Lyn Anderson at 908-788-3806 or lyn_anderson@comcast.net.
- **Emmaus Men's Group Bible Study** - emphasizes a deep understanding of the Bible while developing strong relationships with other Christian men. This bible study focuses on deep prayer, praise and worship, weekly Gospel readings and lively discussions based on a reflection, readings and questions. For more information, please contact Dan Amabile at 732-610-9541 or danamabile@yahoo.net.
- **Marriage Ministry** - brings married couple together to celebrate this sacred sacrament and foundational societal institution and to encourage a deeper connection between couples in Christ. For more information, please contact Deacon Stephen and Rosemary Kern at 908-782-4447 or kernfamilie@earthlink.net.
- **Natural Family Planning** – facilitators bring the life-giving and beautiful message of God's plan for marriage and family to couples preparing to enter into the sacrament of marriage. For more information, please contact Deacon Stephen and Rosemary Kern at 908-782-4447 or kernfamilie@earthlink.net.
- **Pastoral Council** - is a consultative group of priests, deacons, religious sisters, staff, and parishioners who work closely with the pastor and provide input and counsel which assist him in pastoral planning for the whole parish.

- **Right of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** - facilitators welcome all those interested in learning about the Catholic faith in preparation for reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The process includes faith sharing, scripture study and catechetical formation through the year. For more information, please contact Dolores Wright at 908-782-1359 or doloreswright2@gmail.com.
- **Young Adult Ministry** - this is a ministry focused on growing with its members to become true disciple of Jesus Christ, witnessing His love in our culture. The Young Adult ministry provides opportunities for true discipleship through prayer, service, and lively group discussion. These experiences, rooted in the love Christ, prepare young adults to become beacons of light in the world. For more information, please contact Jennifer Prickel at 908-751-1781 or jprickel@stmagdalen.org, or Michael Sarno at 732- 713-2160 or msarno@lawfirm.ms.

Evangelization & Catechesis of Children & Youth

- **Catholic Home Schooling Families** - provide witness to our whole community of commitment to integral Catholic formation as central to the education and raising of children. Our home schooling families also contribute to many areas of our parish's liturgical and social life. For more information, please contact Bridget Rincon at 908-751-1743 or brincon@stmagdalen.org.
- **Camp Saint Magdalen's** - is our yearly summer camp for children, organized by staff and supported by parishioners. The camp offers a fun, community building experience of Catholic faith formation, prayer, and dynamic activities. For more information, please contact Michele Beckman at 908-751-1739 or mbeckman@stmagdalen.org.
- **Catechists** - a group of over 160 stewards (teachers, teaching aides, office and support staff) who offer their time, talent, and energy each week to assist parents in the essential task of teaching, forming and preparing for the sacraments more than 1,100 children in our catechetical program. Catechists rely on scripture, prayer, liturgical and sacramental lessons designed to support each child's development in the faith. For more information, please contact the Parish Catechetical Leader, Bridget Rincon, at 908-751-1743 or brincon@stmagdalen.org.
- **Youth Ministry** – participants work with the coordinator of youth ministry to create opportunities for faith formation, prayer, fellowship, and service to high school aged youth in our parish. For more information, please contact Michele Beckman at 908-751-1739 or mbeckman@stmagdalen.org

Social Justice

- **Bereavement Ministry** - provides spiritual support and care in a safe and confidential environment to parishioners who are grieving the loss of a loved one. For more information, please contact Joan Purdy at 908-369-4841 or purdy.joan799@gmail.com.
- **Divorce Care Support Group** - provides emotional and spiritual support for the many who experience the pain and isolation of separation and divorce. For more information, please contact Sr. Pat at 908-782-2342 or srpat@stmagdalen.org.
- **English Language Learning** - volunteers conduct ongoing English classes for parishioners, most of whom are Spanish-speaking, to assist in their positive assimilation into our community. For more information, please contact Jim Tubman at 908-963-0546 or jet18@psu.edu.

- **Family Promise / Interfaith Hospitality** – volunteers work with other churches to relieve the suffering of local people experiencing periods of homelessness. For more information, please contact Sue Sabol at 908-782-0482 or saboljr@comcast.net.
- **Homebound Ministry** - gathers the elderly and homebound from our community twice per month to join together in Mass, spiritual formation, and fellowship. For more information, please contact Sr. Pat at 908-782-2342 or srpat@stmagdalen.org.
- **Lord's Supper** – volunteers shop for, prepare, and deliver meals to more than 50 people in need throughout our community. For more information, please contact Pat Beckman 908-788-5174 or pat.beckman@comcast.net.
- **Our Lady of Hope House** - brings hope in Jesus and healing to parishioners struggling with spiritual, emotional, or material difficulties, providing a wide range of goods and services including food, clothing, and household items. For more information, please contact Sr. Pat at 908-782-2342 or srpat@stmagdalen.org.
- **Respect for Life Ministry** - keeps in view for the parish the supremely important cause for the support of all life from conception to natural death, through information, prayer, political activity, and planning for the March for Life in Washington, DC. For more information, please contact Sr. Pat at 908-782-2342 or srpat@stmagdalen.org.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry** - provides support for those suffering economic hardship, particularly through the vital corporal work of mercy, to feed those in need. Our food pantry currently serves more than 85 families. For more information, please contact Sr. Pat at 908-782-2342 or srpat@stmagdalen.org.

Business Administration & Finance

- **Building & Grounds Committee** - dedicates countless hours in planning and working to maintain and beautify our campus and its buildings. For more information, please contact Dave Beckman at 908-788-5174 or dbeckman@stmagdalen.org.
- **Finance Council** - is a select group of individuals who dedicate their time and expertise to advise the pastor in all matters financial, providing the necessary assistance for fruitful stewardship of the parish's financial resources. For more information, please contact the Business Administrator, Regina Edersheim, at 908-751-1728 or redersheim@stmagdalen.org.
- **Saint Bernadine Ministry** - assists in the parish and business offices with parish mailings, collections, and other administrative support. For more information, please contact Carmela Kinney at 908-751-1723 or ckinney@stmagdalen.org.
- **St. Magdalen's Gardeners** - spend countless hours creating the remarkable landscape which makes our parish a visible icon of the kingdom of heaven and sets St. Magdalen's apart as one of the most beautiful campuses in our diocese. For more information, please contact Dave Beckman at 908-788-5174 or dbeckman@stmagdalen.org

Stewardship

- **FASTMAG (the Filipino-American Association of St. Magdalen's)** - a group of more than 100 parishioners of Filipino descent, who bring to our parish their vibrant and unique spiritual

customs. FASTMAG is one of our parish's most generous donors of time, talent and treasure, steadfast supporters of our pastor, and our parish's mission. FASTMAG oversees the weekly Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. For more information, please contact Liezl Millan at 908-806-2564 or lcmillan@yahoo.com.

- **Knights of Columbus** - wholly dedicated to the support and building up of parish life, from promotion of evangelization, to social events, to support of the liturgical life, all rooted in the four core principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. For more information, please contact Ray Blaser at 215-260-4554.
- **Squires** - members of an international youth fraternity, run by the Knights of Columbus for young men ages 10-18. Designed to develop young men as leaders who understand their Catholic faith, the Columbian Squires program strives to enrich the spiritual, cultural, civic, social and physical development of its members so that they are strengthened to pattern their lives after the Youth Christ. For more information, please contact Jim Mitchell at JT-Mitchell@att.net.
- **Boy Scouts leaders** - form boys of our parish and beyond in solid Christian values of good conduct, respect for others, and honesty, while instilling lifelong leadership and citizenship skills. Scouts provide wholesome support to our parish life. For more information, please contact Rick Rainey at 908-788-0234 or rsrainey194@gmail.com.
- **Hospitality Ministry** - includes greeters and those who provide refreshments, extend the welcome of Christ to all who pass through our parish doors. For more information, please contact the Commission Chairs for Stewardship, Mary Bachynsky, at mbachynsky@gmail.com, or Deacon Michael Bachynsky at DeaconMike@stmagdalen.org.
- **New Parishioner Welcome**- is a ministry that welcomes those who have newly moved into our parish, as well as those who seek to draw closer to the Catholic faith. Parishioners oversee the registration process and facilitate a warm welcome into our parish life. For more information, please contact Deacon Michael at 908-751-1693 or DeaconMike@stmagdalen.org.
- **Eucharistic Adoration** - a vital means by which we direct our parish to its true center, Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist. Dedicated individuals organize and plan for Eucharistic adoration in our parish, both weekly and for special celebrations. For more information, please contact Lucille Hess at 908-788-5988 or lucillejoy@comcast.net.
- **Daily Holy Rosary** - prayed Monday through Friday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Pope John Paul II, in declaring a Year of the Rosary, wrote, "By immersing us in the mysteries of the Redeemer's life, it ensures that what he has done and what the liturgy makes present is profoundly assimilated and shapes our existence." For more information, please contact Monika Szmul at moszmul@embarqmail.com.
- **Holy Rosary for Life** - prayed every Saturday morning after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

For more information about stewardship opportunities at St. Magdalen's, contact Darrin Nelson at dnelson@stmagdalen.org.